

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1211

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3519

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XM, CS

SUBJECT: THIRD COUNTRY ISSUES

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR TODMAN

REF: STATE 192947

SAN JOSE 3083

1. FREEDOM OF ACTION RESOLUTION TAKEN IN SAN JOSE IS SEEN HERE AS VINDICATION OF FACIO'S THWARTED EFFORTS AT QUITO. GOCR OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH OUTCOME, AND SATISFIED WITH WHAT COSTA RICA CONSIDERS POSITIVE U.S. EFFORT TO BRING IT ABOUT--GRUMBLING FROM SOME ELEMENTS OF THE PRESS AND OPPOSITION RIGHT NOTWITHSTANDING. THUS ON WHOLE U.S. STANCE CONTRIBUTES TO ESSENTIALLY POSITIVE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH ALREADY EXISTS. AT SAME TIME EMBASSY HAS BEGUN TO HEAR REACTIONS FROM BUSINESS COMMUNITY. SOME LOOK FORWARD TO DEVELOPING NEW COSTA RICAN MARKETS IN CUBA. OTHERS, ESPECIALLY SUGAR PRODUCERS, ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HOW CUBA'S ENTRY INTO THE LATIN AMERICAN AND EVENTUALLY U.S. MARKETS WILL AFFECT THEIR COMPETITIVE POSITIONS AND STRENGTHEN CASTRO.

2. IN LIGHT OF RECENT MOVEMENT BY GOCR TOWARD COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA, TO BE FOLLOWED SOONER OR LATER BY FULL DIPLOMATIC TIES (SEPTTEL), I WONDER HOW BUDDING COSTA RICAN/CUBAN RELATIONSHIPS MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY CURRENT U.S. PROGRAMS BASED
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ON LEGISLATION OR PROCEDURES INSTITUTED BEFORE RECENT OAS

EVENTS. (FOR EXAMPLE, COULD U.S. ISSUE EXPORT LICENSES TO PERMIT RESALE BY COSTA RICA OF SUCH ITEMS AS PRINTING PRESSES TO CUBA? ALSO, COULD CAB APPROVAL BE GRANTED, IF REQUIRED, FOR LACSA TO RENEW ITS OLD SAN JOSE-HAVANA-MIAMI RUN?) AFTER U.S. SUPPORT FOR OAS FREEDOM OF ACTION RESOLUTION, ANY U.S. MEASURES, WHICH IN EFFECT WOULD PREVENT COSTA RICA FROM EXERCISING ITS FREEDOM OF ACTION TOWARD CUBA, LEGAL AS THEY MAY BE, WOULD BE RESENTED AS ANOMALIES, AND THE BILATERAL ATMOSPHERE WOULD BE SOURED.

3. OVERWHELMING MAJORITY IN COSTA RICA WELCOMES RENEWAL OF CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. AS LONG AS NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE ON TRACK, CANAL QUESTIONS WILL NOT MUDDY BILATERAL WATERS.
TODMAN

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